

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6611

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12668

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA

REF: STATE 243260

1. SAW TAQLA FOR ONE-HALF HOUR THIS MORNING. HE HAD SPENT NIGHT AT BAABDA AND SEEN PRESIDENT BUT HAD NOT RPT NOT YET SEEN KARAME. HE WAS PROCEEDING DIRECTLY TO KARAME'S HOME WHEN I LEFT HIM. CONVEYED MESSAGE CONTAINED REFTTEL. KARAME MOST APPRECIATIVE. THE ONLY POINT HE SAID HE WISHED TO RAISE AT THIS TIME WAS SOVIET REACTION TO THE LEBANESE SITUATION. HE SAID HE AND THE SECRETARY HAD DISCUSSED THIS AND THE SECRETARY HAD INDICATED WE WOULD ENDEAVOR TO DISCUSS LEBANON WITH SOVIETS ASAP.

2. TAQLA CONTINUED THAT WHEN IN PARIS YESTERDAY, LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO UN GHORRA HAD CALLED HIM TO REPORT CORRIDOR TALK THAT THERE WAS THOUGHT OF HAVING THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ISSUE A STATEMENT BESPEAKING LEBANESE PEACE, QUIET, UNDERSTANDING, ETC. TAQLA REQUESTED OUR REACTION TO SUCH A POSSIBILITY WHETHER WE HAD ANY SPECIFIC IDEAS ON WHAT MIGHT BE INCLUDED AND WHEN SUCH A STATEMENT MIGHT BE MADE. HE ASKED ME TO MAKE THIS INQUIRY URGENTLY AND SAID HE WOULD HOPE WE MIGHT HAVE A REPLY BY TOMORROW MORNING. I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT THIS WAS MOST DUBIOUS. TAQLA THEN SAID URGENCY ALSO DUE TO
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FACT THAT HE HAD ANOTHER TELEPHONE CONVERSATION FROM

GHORRA LATE LAST NIGHT AFTER HE HAD ARRIVED IN BEIRUT IN WHICH GHORRA SAID HE UNDESTOOD THAT WASHINGTON AMBASSADORS OF FOUR PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS HAD MET WITH DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS AND DISCUSSED THIS MATTER. HE SAID GHORRA WAS NOT CERTAIN THIS MEETING HAD OCCURRED AND TAQLA WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE COMMENT. DISCUSSING SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, TAQLA SAID HE WOULD PERSONALLY WELCOME A STATEMENT BY THE BIG FIVE FOR SOVIET PARTICIPATION THERE- WITH WOULD BE A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH. EVEN IF STATE- MENT WERE RELATIVELY BANAL, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL.

3. TAQLA SAID HE WOULD BE PROCEEDING DIRECTLY FROM OUR MEETING TO PRIMIN KARAME'S HOME. I, THERE, FORE, REQUESTED HE ASCERTAIN AND INFORM ME OF CON- VERSATION KARAME HAD YESTERDAY WITH SOVIET AMB SOLDATOV, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM LEAVE. ALSO REQUESTED INFORMATION RE ASAD TRIP TO MOSCOW. TAQLA SAID HE WOULD DO SO.

4. WE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING. TAQLA SAID HE PERSONALLY HOPED IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT OCCUR AS EARLY AS WEDNESDAY, OCT 15 FOR THIS WOULD NOT RPT NOT PERMIT NECESSARY PREPARATION. HE, HOWEVER, LIKED THE IDEA OF A SPECIAL MEETING ON THE LEBANON SEPARATE FROM REGU- LAR MEETING SCHEDULED OCT 20.
GODLEY

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